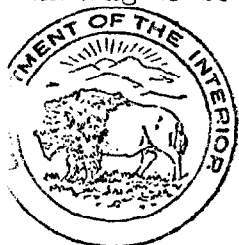


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

ILLEGAL DUCK TRAPPERS GET STIFF PENALTIES

Stiff fines and jail terms were given February 7 to two men of Chincoteague, Virginia, for unlawfully attempting to trap wild ducks in a marsh west of Chincoteague, Albert M. Day, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, informed Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman today.

In assessing penalties against the two men, U. S. Judge Sterling Hutcheson in the District Court at Newport News recognized the fact that they had resisted arrest and one of them had threatened U. S. Game Management Agent Leon D. Cool, Jr., with a rifle. George Clark, the man who threatened Cool, was the brother of Walter P. Clark, who two years ago shot and wounded U. S. Game Management Agent John H. Buckalew while resisting arrest.

George Clark was severely condemned by Judge Hutcheson who announced that there could be "no more warring against Federal officers and the time has come to put a stop to acts of violence." Clark was given a \$500 fine and a six month term in jail. Clark's companion in duck trapping was Mark Daisey, who was also criticized by the judge for making no effort to help the arresting officer, or in indicating that he would attempt to prevent Clark from shooting the officer. The court stated that under such circumstances there could be little leniency, and Daisey was fined \$250 and sentenced to three months in jail. A third man -- with Clark and Daisey trapping ducks -- had covered his head with his jacket and could not be identified by Agent Cool, who had returned to his plane after being intimidated by Clark with his rifle.

The illegal duck trap set-up was first spotted by Game Management Agent Cool and U. S. Deputy Game Warden Tinsley H. Cunningham while flying over the marsh on December 9, 1949. Returning later in the afternoon in the hopes of finding duck trappers on the site, they watched from their plane as the three men arrived in a fast boat and baited the trap. Cool landed his plane and put Deputy Warden Cunningham ashore. Cunningham challenged the men, who dumped a sack of corn in the marsh and sped away in their boat. Cool taxied after the speeding boat and overtook it as it went aground on a sand bar.

As Cool approached the boat, Clark pulled a rifle from under a raincoat, opened the breech to make sure it was loaded, and told Cool that he would shoot if any attempt was made to take him. Cool told Clark that it was unnecessary to take him, as both he and Daisey were recognized and would be summoned into court. The third man in the boat, however, continued to cover under his jacket and was not identified.

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